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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BROWN et al.)
Application No.: 10/047,440) Examiner: BOS, Steven J.
Filed: January 14, 2002) Group Art Unit: 1754
Docket No.: 542,286CON (3600-226-01)) Confirmation No.: 4701

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING NIOBIUM AND TANTALUM COMPOUNDS

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 30, 2004

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2003, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before February 6, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.